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General Assembly

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Committee on Information
Thirty-seventh session
27 April-8 May 2015
Agenda item 10
Consideration and adoption of the report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its seventieth session

Draft report

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 34/182, the General Assembly decided to maintain the Committee to Review United Nations Public Information Policies and Activities, established by its resolution 33/115 C, which would be known as the Committee on Information, and to increase its membership from 41 to 66. In section I, paragraph 2, of resolution 34/182, the Assembly requested the Committee:

(a) To continue to examine United Nations public information policies and activities, in the light of the evolution of international relations, particularly during the past two decades, and of the imperatives of the establishment of the new international economic order and of a new world information and communication order;

(b) To evaluate and follow up the efforts made and the progress achieved by the United Nations system in the field of information and communications;

(c) To promote the establishment of a new, more just and more effective world information and communication order intended to strengthen peace and international understanding and based on the free circulation and wider and better balanced dissemination of information and to make recommendations thereon to the General Assembly.

The Assembly also requested the Committee and the Secretary-General to report to it at its thirty-fifth session.

2. The General Assembly, since its thirty-sixth session, has taken note of the reports of the Committee and adopted consensus resolutions, the most recent of which being resolutions 69/96 A and B.

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3. Currently, the Committee is composed of the following States:

Algeria
Angola
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Armenia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Belarus
Belgium
Belize
Benin
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cabo Verde
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Denmark
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Gabon
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Guatemala
Guinea
Guyana
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan

Kenya
Lebanon
Liberia
Libya
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malta
Mexico
Monaco
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Nepal
Netherlands
Niger
Nigeria
Oman
Pakistan
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Republic of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Slovakia
Solomon Islands
Somalia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Suriname
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uruguay
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Viet Nam
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

II. Organizational questions

A. Opening of the session

4. The organizational meeting of the thirty-seventh session of the Committee was held on 27 April 2015 at Headquarters. The session was opened by the Chair of the Committee, Lyutha Al-Mughairy (Oman).

B. Election of officers

5. In accordance with the principle of geographical rotation, the Committee held elections for a new Bureau for a two-year term. The following officers for the Committee for the period 2015-2017 were elected by acclamation:

Chair:

Kaha Imnadze (Georgia)

Vice-Chairs:

Carla Esperanza Rivera Sánchez (El Salvador)
Giovanni Davoli (Italy)
Chibaula David Silwamba (Zambia)

Rapporteur:

Hossein Maleki (Islamic Republic of Iran)

C. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

6. At its organizational meeting, on 27 April, the Committee adopted the following agenda and programme of work (A/AC.198/2015/1):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work.
4. Admission of new members.
5. Statement by the Chair.
6. Statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information.
7. General debate.
8. Consideration of reports submitted by the Secretary-General.
9. Open-ended working group of the Committee on Information.
10. Consideration and adoption of the report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its seventieth session.

7. The Committee held its general debate on 27 and 28 April 2015. On the afternoon of 29 April, the Department of Public Information, led by the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, held an interactive dialogue with member States.

8. For its consideration of agenda item 8, the Committee had before it the following reports of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Public Information:

(a) Strategic communications services (A/AC.198/2015/2);

(b) News services (A/AC.198/2015/3);

(c) Outreach and knowledge services (A/AC.198/2015/4).

D. Observers

9. Paraguay participated in the session as an observer, as did the Holy See, the State of Palestine, the European Union, the International Organization of la Francophonie and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.